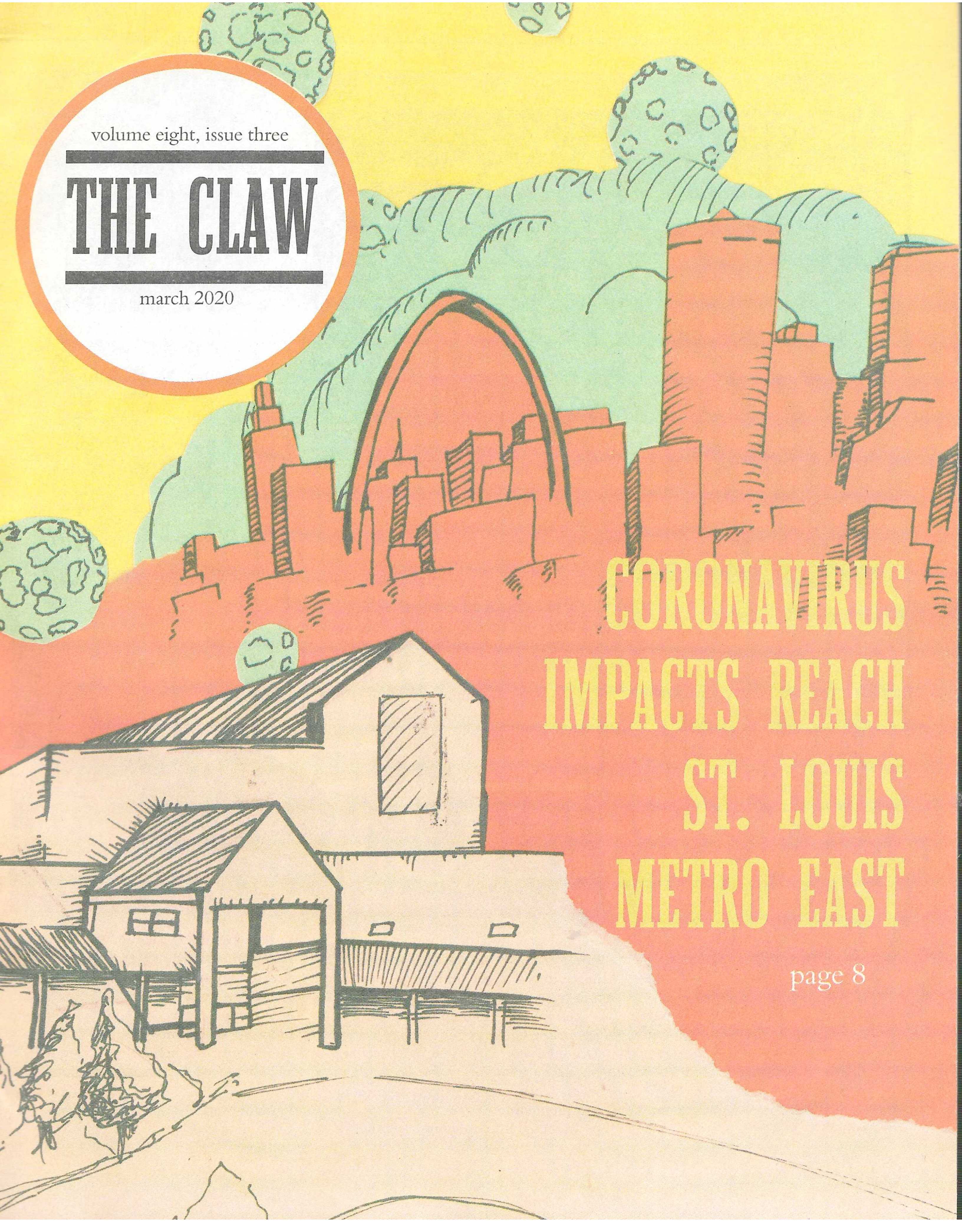
volume eight, issue three

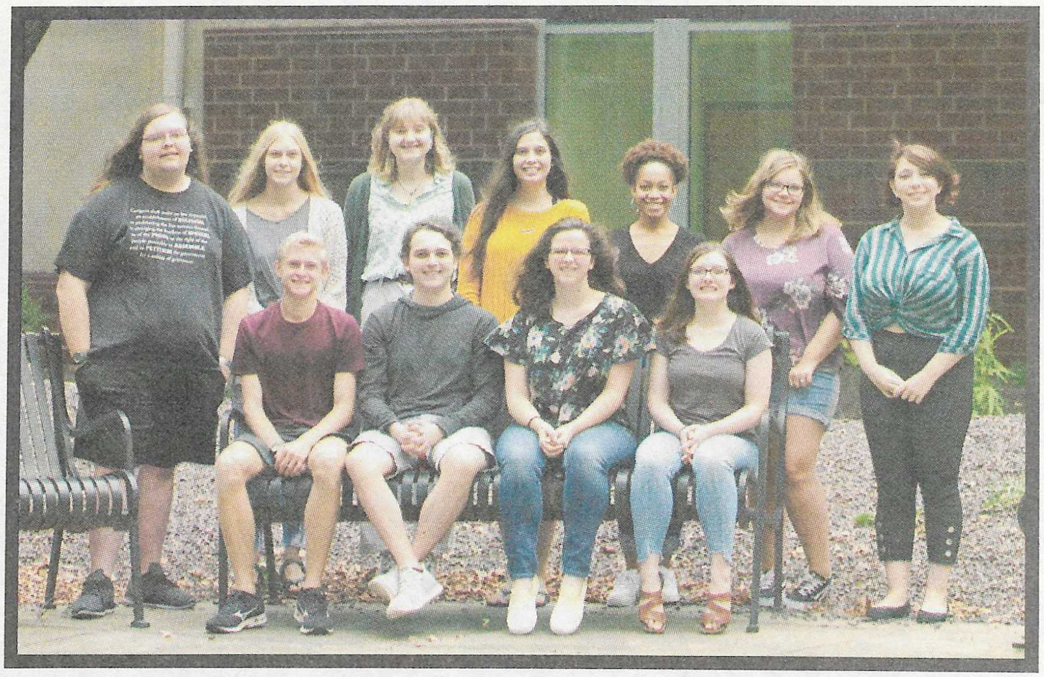
THE CLAW

march 2020



CORONAVIRUS IMPACTS REACH ST. LOUIS METRO EAST

page 8



Co Editors-in-Chief • Jacqueline Glenn and Ryan Stewart
Life Editor • Cassi Reaka
Sports Editor • Jack Barker
Culture Editor • Taylor Meek
Views Editor • Jack Pifer
Staff • Katelyn Harris, Sydney Hershberger, Emily Kloostra, Lauren Johnson and Hannah Thompson
Adviser • Amanda Thrun
Cover Art • Charlie Belobrajdic

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

With third quarter over and yes, I'll address it, my hair just a touch shorter, this year has rocketed by at supersonic speed. And whenever that happens it's important to sit back from time to time and take a moment to reflect on what's going on around you.

And I hope that this magazine can do that for you. Whether you're hearing about the things happening in Edwardsville and the surrounding area, finding out how your favorite EHS sports are doing, trying to keep up on the current culture or wanting to hear someone make their case for their belief on a given topic, we're here to give you that reason to take a moment.

On pages 4-5 Life Editor Cassi Reaka tells the story of senior McKenna Vereeke, who recently leveled up her modeling career with a trip to New York where she walked during Fashion Week.

Our cover story (pages 8-9) on the broad impacts of the coronavirus in our area was co-written at deadline by Cassi and Hannah Thompson.

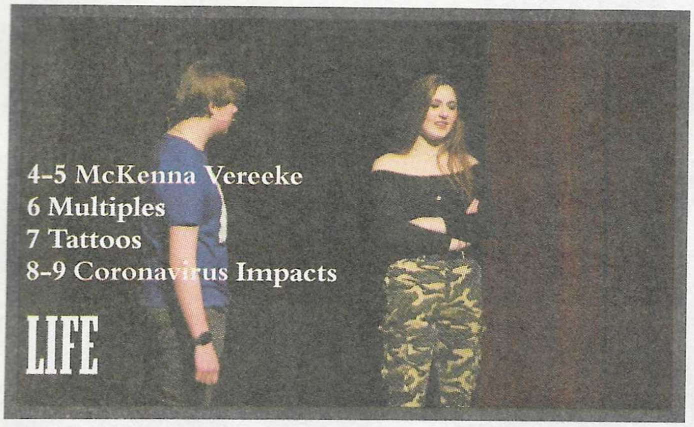
On pages 10-11, staff writer Hannah then introduces our sports section into the mix with an update on how Winter Guard is doing with their most recent show.

On page 15 Co-Editor-in-chief Jacqueline Glenn reviews the *egg*cellent eats of Edwardsville breakfast. Breakfast puns are a great start to the day, and she reccomends several places to begin a new morning with.

Moving on to everyone's favorite Views section starting on page 18 Staff Writer Katelyn Harris offers her view of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. She may just have a few choice words for Pelosi.

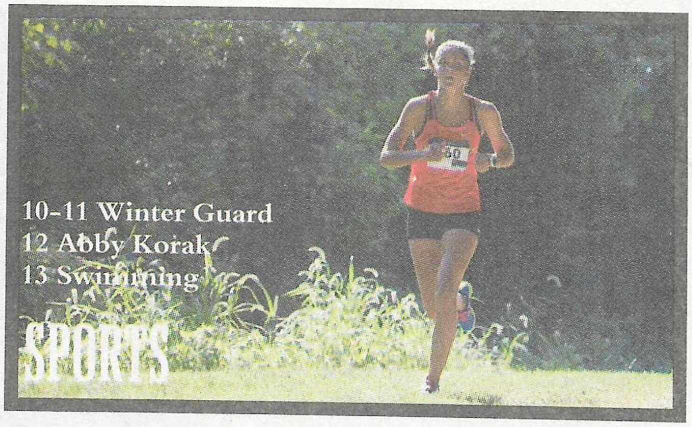
As we get nearer to the end of the year those aforementioned moments become even more meaningful. Pretty soon we'll all have moved on. Cherish them now.

Ryan Stewart
Co-Editor-in-Chief



4-5 McKenna Vereeke
6 Multiples
7 Tattoos
8-9 Coronavirus Impacts

LIFE

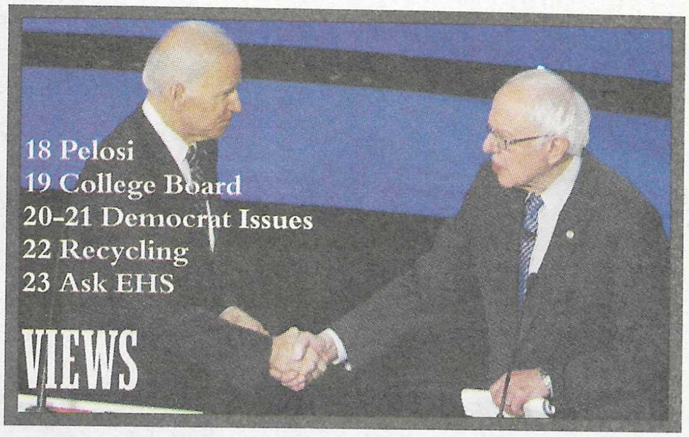


10-11 Winter Guard
12 Abby Korak
13 Swimming

SPORTS

14 Billie Eilish
15 Breakfast
16 Lip Balm
17 Birds of Prey

CULTURE



18 Pelosi
19 College Board
20-21 Democrat Issues
22 Recycling
23 Ask EHS

VIEWS

FRIENDS OF EHS JOURNALISM

PUBLISHERS ($100+)

Cleveland Heath
Taqueria Z
Tom Gibbons, Madison County States Attorney
Anonymous—"Freedom of the press is not a license to be stupid."
Anonymous
The Thompson family
The Spudich family
EHS Yearbook
Chris and Pam Farrar

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF ($75)

The Rivera family

EDITORS ($50)

The Ash family
Guy Russo
The Semmler family
The Wise family
The Glenn family

The ultimate goal of The Claw is reporting Life, Sports, Culture and Views stories to the students and faculty of Edwardsville High School. Stories by students outside of Journalism and Yearbook may submit work and be published if that work is exceptional. The Claw is a student-run publication, and the opinions and views featured in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of District 7 or any of the staff it employs.

We appreciate letters to the editor, so long as the topics discussed remain school appropriate. These letters may not be any longer than 200 words, and can be sent to letterstotheclaw@gmail.com or brought to room A113 before or after school. We reserve the right to reject any letters for any reason, including inappropriateness, lack of space, etc. We are not required to give an explanation for rejected letters.

STAFFER ($25)

Frames.by 3
Metro East Humane Society
Jade Weber
Emma Lazerson
Cara Lane

EHS Journalism is grateful to all its sponsors. For information about how to become a sponsor, email athrun@ecusd7.org.

LIKE WHAT YOU SEE?

Follow us on Twitter:
@ehs_journalism
Follow us on Instagram:
@tigertimes.online
Read our weekly online edition at:
ehstigertimesonline.com

SENIOR MAKES NEW YORK FASHION WEEK DEBUT

Vereeke shows a Libertine piece after a show.
photo courtesy of McKenna Vereeke

by Cassi Reaka, Life Editor

During the first two weeks of February, most 17-year-olds are sitting in classes, carrying on with schoolwork, possibly stressing about the first big test of the new semester.

Senior McKenna Vereeke spent that time hitting the runways of New York Fashion Week (NYFW).

Vereeke began modeling professionally less than a year ago. This, however, did not stop her from walking for four designers over the nine-day event. She walked for Tadashi Shoji, Libertine, Asli Filinta and Simay Bülbül.

Most models are not guaranteed that they will walk before going to New York, according to Vereeke. They attend castings during the first few days of the event and hope that they book a show.

"You go to every casting you possibly can," Vereeke said. "I went to every single one that I had scheduled and ended up getting four shows out of it, which is a really big deal for my first season."

Most of the castings Vereeke attended had 200 to 300 models and a waiting period of two to three hours to simply give the director her card and do her walk.

Those 200 or more hopefuls are then narrowed down to 12 or fewer models who will actually walk in the show.

Just two days before leaving for New York, Vereeke was still unsure as to whether she was going. Her agent was unable to provide her with an itinerary, and that concerned her.

"At the time, I didn't understand that that's not how it works," Vereeke said. "[My mom and I] were like this is kind of sketchy-maybe we don't want to do this, purely because there's no set schedule."

Vereeke's agent reassured her that the schedule was day by day, but that's how it works. She decided to "just go with it," with the contingency that she could fly home if necessary.

"I ended up learning how to do it, and I loved it," Vereeke said.

Prior to attending NYFW, the only professional modeling Vereeke had done was for Frew's Bridal in Alton and a show for a homecoming dress shop in Springfield. She also frequently took photos with EHS alumnus Andreas Ellinas so that he could practice photography.

"McKenna started getting more into modeling at the same time that I started getting into photography," Ellinas said. "Having another person with the same goals and at the same skill level was just what we needed."

After posting the pictures to Instagram, Vereeke was scouted by several agencies.

"I was incredibly proud of her," Ellinas said. "As a photographer, I have an easier time starting out and getting a job than she does with modeling, so that meant agencies really liked what she was putting out. Then I realized that I also took part in taking those photos. We were succeeding as creatives and as a team."

Vereeke signed with Nova Management in April 2019.

"[My agent] hadn't put me on the website yet and he had told me 'you're my surprise for fashion week because a lot of people are going to want you,'" Vereeke said.

Besides never having walked in a major runway show, Vereeke was one of the youngest models there.

"Other people were at least 20," Vereeke said. "You see other girls there that are like 'oh this is my fifth season' and they know that it's your first. It's kind of hard."

Although she had limited modeling experience, Vereeke has participated in pageants since her sophomore year and won Miss Prairie State Outstanding Teen in 2019.

"I decided to start [pageants] because my mom did them when she was younger," Vereeke said. "I had also stopped doing color guard, and I wanted something new so I could have something to occupy my time."

Her pageant experience helped to prepare her for modeling.

"You learn how to hold yourself and how to talk to people because there's an interview portion in the pageants," Vereeke said. "You just learn how to present yourself."

Pageantry also introduced Vereeke to Annie Kamps, who was her legal guardian for the two-week period because neither of Vereeke's parents was with her. Kamps, 22, was Miss Prairie State 2019 and "sister queen" to Vereeke.

"I think my favorite part about having McKenna on my team was that I had a friend and a sister with me at all times," Kamps said. "No matter the event we would always have a great time, especially at the parades.

"I was excited to be able to explore New York and keep McKenna safe while allowing her to grow as her own individual professionally and personally."

Almost all of the models at NYFW are a size 2, according to Vereeke. But while she maintains her figure through regular exercise and eating smaller portions, most girls are doing something else.

"I realized that all of these models stay skinny because they smoke instead of eating," Vereeke said. "That's one of the bad things about the industry because it's not healthy whatsoever. I'm never going to do that because there are better ways you can keep your body healthy."

At 5 foot 10 inches, Vereeke was surprised to find that she was one of the shortest models. While she had always felt tall in Edwardsville, the experience made her feel insecure about her height.

"I just felt the need to be taller, like today I'm wearing these crazy high boots," Vereeke said, gesturing to white boots. "That's what you need to be."

There is a competitive vibe between models at the castings, when everyone is just trying to book a job, according to Vereeke. At shows, however, there is much more of a community feel and the models are able to form real connections with each other.

"Once you're [at shows] everyone is so supportive of each other," Vereeke said. "I had models that once I got my hair done for one show, they were like, 'Oh you look like an angel,' and I was like, 'You all are so much older than me that's so sweet to say.'"

While Vereeke is plans to continue modeling, she will be attending college in the fall to major in psychology and minor in music.

"No one can take your degree away from you," Vereeke said. "I'd like to still be able to work even after I'm too old to model."

Vereeke is excited to continue to pursue her career while she can. She plans on traveling to France this summer and possibly Tokyo next year.

"That 30 seconds that you're on the runway, that is my favorite part," Vereeke said. "It's just you showing how powerful you are. I don't even know how to describe it. It just fills you with such a fire inside."

Agents contact Vereeke based on the photos she and her photographers post on Instagram.
photo courtesy of McKenna Vereeke

MULTIPLES: WE AREN'T ONE AND THE SAME

STUDENTS WANT TO ASSURE PEERS OF THEIR INDIVIDUALITY, DEBUNK MYTHS

by Emily Kloostra, Staff Writer

Through popular culture, the idea of twins has become somewhat mystifying. Someone might say that twins can talk to each other without speaking, or that twins are basically the same person.

EHS's twins and triplets have a message: these representations aren't right.

"We aren't telepathic, and I can't feel it if you punch my brother," junior Jack Pizziferro said.

Jack and his brother Alec Pizziferro are fraternal twins, and as Jack explains, the two are completely separate people.

"Fraternal twins are as related as older and younger siblings," Jack said. "We are not genetically identical."

While there are differences, both brothers said they do feel a bond.

"My brother and I aren't separated all the time like most siblings," Alec said, "so I feel like I'm more of a package deal some of the time."

Jack said the constant companionship is one of the best parts about being a twin.

"I always have someone who knows what's going on," Jack said. "... We're the same age, go to the same high school and have similar experiences. Whether we like it or not we are forced to stick together."

Junior Isabella Grinter can empathize with the Pizziferro brothers. As one of a set of triplets, Isabella knows how people can misunderstand sibling relationships.

"[They think] that we all have the same style and personality," Grinter said. "... [Or] people assume you will do something because they did it."

But having two sisters in the same grade does have its benefits, according to Grinter.

"School is way more fun with my sisters because it's always interesting to have a class with them," she said. "They can also help you with your school work if they have already learned it."

"BEING A TRIPLET 'IS LIKE RIDING A BIKE THAT'S ONLY MEANT FOR ONE PERSON.'"

Being a triplet is "like riding a bike that's only meant for one person," Grinter said. Deciding who gets to wear which jeans, whose turn it is to use the laptop and whether or not to go to school five minutes early is daily life.

Even through mistaken identities and odd questions, the triplets find enjoyment in it all, Grinter said.

"You can talk to your sisters about anything," she said. "and you can always make each other laugh."

Sophomore Kearsten Naney knows about making people laugh. According to Naney, when she and her identical twin sister Kaitlyn aren't fighting, they enjoy working together to play tricks on people.

"[We like] pretending we are one another or switching seats in class to see if our teachers notice," Naney said.

The "Parent Trap"-esque charades started when the sisters' eighth grade English teacher wanted to test her own abilities for telling the twins apart.

"When she didn't notice," Naney said, "we decided to keep switching until she did. Then it just became kind of like a game for us."

The similarities to movies stops there, however. Mythical twin powers don't exis for identical twins either, Naney said.

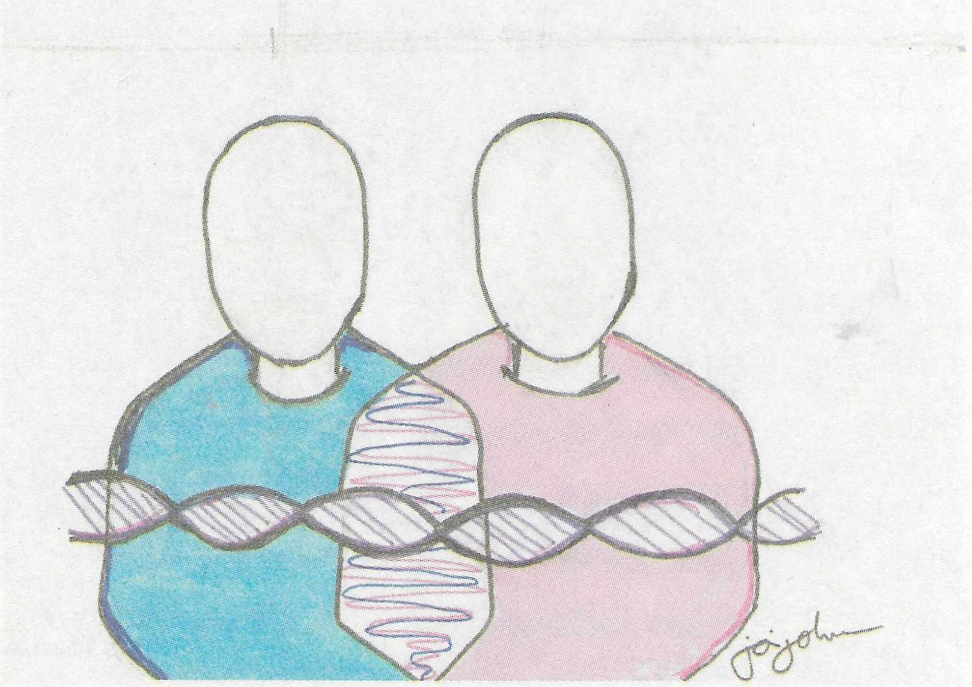
"I think the biggest [misconception] is when people ask if I can feel my sister's pain," she said. "Believe it or not if you slap me, my sister will not feel it."

Naney said that everything life with a twin offers can make it bittersweet—he always has somebody to share life with, but also rarely gets to experience it on her own.

"While I love being a twin and experiencing things together," Naney said, "I would like to be able to experienc some individuality. We are always togethe and we are always compared to one another."

Whether it's because they are tired of being called by the wrong name or are finished with the endless comparisons, twins and triplets are pushing back against the stereotypes.

As Jack Pizzeferro said, "Not all twins are identical, and we are two different people."



STUDENTS MODIFY TEEN TATTOO STIGMA

by Taylor Meek, Culture Editor

As the popularity of body modifications strengthens, students' urge to "be inked" grows as well, but for all the right reasons.

It's become more socially acceptable for teenagers to have tattoos and other body modifications; as now it is seen more as self-expression than deviant behavior.

"Teens may want to get a tattoo as a statement of their individuality or to commemorate an important event," said Eileen Kennedy-Moore, Ph.D., co-author of the book "Smart Parenting for Smart Kids: Nurturing Your Child's True Potential" told TeenLife Blog.

Senior Malachi Revis got his first tattoo just last summer after previously being skeptical.

"At first, when I was little, I always said I didn't want one, and then when I got older and kept seeing them on people I changed my mind," Revis said. "And plus, my brothers have one so I felt a little left out."

Revis now has two tattoos: a cross with a ribbon draped around it and his name written in Chinese.

"THE SIGNIFICANCE HAS TO DO WITH KNOWING YOUR HERITAGE AND IT'S LIKE A REMINDER OF WHERE YOU COME FROM."

On the other hand, a tattoo was always in the cards for senior Eric Epenesa as he comes from a Samoan family, where tribal tattoos are a tradition.

"The significance has to do with knowing your heritage and it's like a reminder of where you come from," Epenesa said.

The majority of the people in his family have, or will get a tribal tattoo.

"My uncle, he's a tattoo artist, who lives in Alaska," Epenesa said. "Someone paid for his flight and he flew down here, and we did it in my kitchen. He brings all of his [equipment] and he does everything freehand. I've never seen someone draw a perfectly straight line so well. It's amazing."

Samoan tribal tattoos typically feature simple concepts from nature and everyday life such as knives, fish, waves, or even patterns from house mats, according to Epenesa.

Senior Sukayla Jones has six tattoos that are all significant.

Of all the tattoos she has, the set that may catch your eye first just might be the half-sleeve of flowers.

Jones said that flowers were directly related to natural beauty, and she plans on adding to her floral sleeve in the near future.

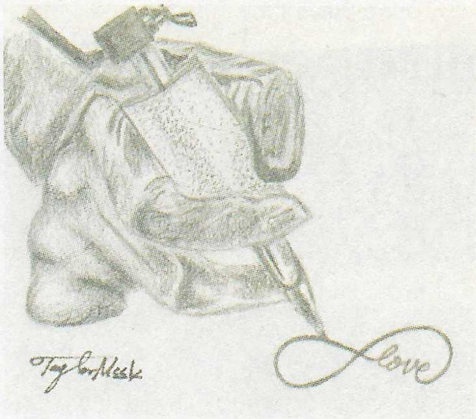
English teacher Lauren Mudge got her first tattoo when she was an EHS student, and now she has eight, going on nine, tattoos.

The tattoo that seems to have the most significance was her I-Ching, which she shares with her mother and brother.

I-Ching symbols come from one of the oldest books in ancient China, which contains 64 hexagrams and texts in which a person may connect with.

A late artist and friend designed Mudge and her family's I-Ching.

"After getting to know us, he would figure out what I Ching symbol best represented us," Mudge said.



The artist passed before he was able to complete Mudge's tattoo design, but out of great respect, she used what he'd given her just days before his death.

Mudge also shares a sweet tattoo with her colleagues.

"On my right arm I have a peach, which is a friend tattoo that I actually got with two other teachers," Mudge said. The other teachers who share the fruit art are Olivia Cusanelli and Ashley Valenzuela.

Rather than having a tattoo artist design his body art, AP Studio Art student Cullin Brueggeman created his own tattoo because he wanted his work permanently on his body.

"The tattoo I have is an abstract line art face," Brueggeman said. "I drew it myself, so it's something unique to me."

Levi's
Shorts
Available
Now

GLIK'S

Visit gliks.com to find your nearest location

GLIKS.COM @GLIKSOFFICIAL

CORONAVIRUS IMPACTS REACH ST. LOUIS METRO EAST

enterprise CENTER
STL AUTHENTICS

A workers tends to a trash can outside the Enterprise Center in St. Louis. The NCAA basketball tournament was cancelled, and the NHL season has been postponed.
Photo courtesy of AP Images

by Cassi Reaka, Life Editor and Hannah Thompson, Staff Writer

Vacant sports stadiums, abandoned schools and desolate streets are on the horizon as the coronavirus insurmountably inserts itself into day-to-day life.

When the coronavirus, COVID-19, first appeared in Wuhan, China in late December, it seemed like a far off issue. As it continued to spread to Europe, people became more concerned, but it still did not directly impact most people in the United States.

This false sense of security came to an abrupt end for many when the first case was confirmed in the U.S., and it began spreading domestically. It slowly began to impact national events, and eventually made its way to St. Louis.

Since the first rumors to now, things have escalated dramatically. Concerts, sporting events, field trips, conferences and schools all around the country have been canceled or postponed because of the virus.

National Impacts

The world of professional sports has been suffering amid the outbreak. The NBA, NHL and MLB have all postponed their seasons, and the NCAA tournament (March Madness) has been canceled.

Even Disneyland and Disney World have been temporarily closed. According to the New York Times, Disneyland has only been closed two other times since its opening in 1955: following President Kennedy's assassination and the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in 2001.

The virus has also affected many student activities in and out of school.

Student Activity Impacts

YMCA swim nationals canceled for the first time since 1947, according to senior Matthiew Doyle, who swims for the Edwardsville Breakers. A district meet, th team's alternate championship meet for nationals, was also canceled.

"It was very disappointing to have nationals canceled, especially since this is my first year qualifying," Doyle said. "It's an extremely hard meet to get to, so I was really bummed out.

"No matter how many chemicals you put in the pool, it's still very subject to the transfer of germs. I think that's the reason why everything is being canceled so quickly, especially in swimming."

The winter Color Guard season was also cut short.

"We only got to do a very small portion of our season," freshman member Abigail Bledsoe said. "All the hard work and time that we put in was for nothing."

While no action has been taken yet, there is speculation about the postponement or cancellation of the spring musical, "Big Fish." Senior Anna Bruss said the director told the crew to prepare for the likely extension. Bruss believes that she and the other members of the show will not perform it in March.

"Everyone is very sad," Bruss said, "especially after what happened during the fall musical. We were really excited for the spring one."

Behind the scenes events are also being affected by the pandemic, extending through the walls of the publications room.

The IHSA Journalism competition, at which EHS has found great success in the past few years, has been canceled. It is a major disappointment for our program to lose the opportunity to represent our school and the work we have put in this year.

The virus has impacted this issue of The Claw as well. As a quarterly publication, our staff relies less on timely events (to an extent). Yet, this story is novel and impactful enough that we have rushed to cover it at the eleventh hour before its publication. In addition, the virus has taken over the news, leaving other issues seemingly irrelevant.

The yearbook staff is concerned about coverage in its spring supplement. With speculation of all spring sports being canceled or postponed, photographers' ability to take photos would be limited or eliminated. At press time, no final decision has been made.

School Closure?

There is even speculation that EHS may undergo a temporary closure for a 14-day period, in which case all school events would be canceled. During our second hour class, all faculty had to read a message to their students saying that classes would move to an e-Learning Program through email and Schoology.

According to Principal Dr. Dennis Cramsey, if the school were to close, it would be by order of the governor, State Board of Education or the Madison County Health Department. Area superintendents will then notify the schools in their districts.

"We are putting together an e-Learning program that will be communicated to all parents in the event that this happens," Dr. Cramsey said. "There will be an opportunity for students to receive daily instruction in all of their classes from their teachers via the internet."

"ALL THE HARD WORK AND TIME THAT WE PUT IN WAS FOR NOTHING."

Students without the internet will have access to hard copy packets to supplement the e-Learning that they would miss.

Because of the school's use of Schoology and other online classroom tools, Dr. Cramsey foresees the transition going smoothly.

"I think the other thing that will come out of this is that those who aren't as familiar with Schoology will become more familiar," Dr. Cramsey said, "and it will only improve our ability to hold e-Learning days in the future."

Biology teacher Julia Doll said that it will require flexibility from teachers, students and parents. Mrs. Doll thinks her freshman biology students will adapt well to the transition.

"Honestly, [students] should have been doing some things online anyway," Mrs. Doll said. "A lot of teachers use Schoology or have Clever or Webassign and other things like that."

However, AP students may have difficulties staying on track for the AP test.

"We're waiting for AP to get back with us as to whether or not they are going to extend the test dates," Mrs. Doll said. "Until I know that, I can't change too many things."

Economic and Supply Impacts

Outside of school, many people are taking precautionary measures in their own homes.

The fear of a possible quarantine or isolation process has caused shortages of many household supplies, including toilet paper. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a quarantine separates those who have been exposed to a disease while isolation separates those who are currently sick from those who are not.

A quarantine (or just the limited use of sporting venues, restaurants, gyms, traveling, and any other public places and businesses) could have detrimental effects on the economy, according to the New York Times.

"That is because face-to-face service industries—the kind of businesses that go into a tailspin when fearful people withdraw from one another — tend to dominate economies in high-income countries more than they do in China," the New York Times said.

The international economy is in danger as well, particularly those countries who are supplied by China.

"With shortages of everything from auto parts to generic medicines and production delays in things like iPhones and Diet Coke, a great deal of pain is coming from the closing of Chinese factories," the New York Times said.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said during a White House briefing that the impact of the virus is only going to get worse.

"How much worse it will get, will depend on our ability to do two things: to contain the influx of people who are infected coming from the outside and the ability to contain and mitigate within our own country," Dr. Fauci said. "Bottom line, it's going to get worse."

WINTER COLOR GUARD DEMONSTRATES IMPORTANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM

Sophomore Logan Pope proudly stands and holds a flag on a three layered prop in the EHS home gym.
Photo by Helen Zheng

by Hannah Thompson, Staff Writer

A clip from one of Swedish teen environmental activist Greta Thunberg's speeches echoes from the speakers as senior Aubrey Morgan begins the winter color guard show titled "Now."

"For the solo performance, I am not worried at all," Morgan said. "I am calm and just tell myself I need to act out my part."

The varsity color guard team has performed in three competitions so far this year, placing in the top four in each of them. On Feb. 22, the team was one of 11 teams to qualify for the Winter Guard International Regional in Springfield, Mo.

The show emphasizes the importance of making positive changes in a world that needs positivity more than ever, according to Morgan.

"There's horrible pollution, people in poverty and people starving in the world," Morgan said.

Color Guard Director Leah Cummins said the show visualizes "becoming the change that the world needs as it relates to climate change and global warming."

After Morgan's emotional introduction, sophomore Logan Pope and senior Nataliya Olyunina join her to perform a small dance feature on a three layered structure in the center of the gym floor as the song "If You're Out There" by John Legend begins to play over the speakers. The rest of the performers join later in the song.

The song addresses the importance of activism and working to make positive changes in society. According to an interview with John Legend, it is a call to action directed toward all people living in this generation. The song ends with the lines, "we can't afford to wait/the future started yesterday and we're already late."

The color guard's interpretation of the song focuses on the need to address environmental issues with specific emphasis on litter and pollution.

"As the show progresses, change begins to take place," sophomore Claire Almos said, "and the people (performers) begin to work hard to make the world a better place."

The performers initially have flags that represent the many forms of trash and pollution, which they slam against prop trash cans to represent the importance of the proper disposal of garbage, senior Ashley Stephenson said.

Coach Cummins said those flags are replaced by "a range of various colors of flags with recycling images that represent the urge to change the path the world is on."

The show ends with the performers coming together on a green flag that represents the earth as it should be, according to Stephenson.

The performers represent this shift through the projection of emotion as well. Initially, they look defeated as they lie on the ground around one of the structures that hides their flags. As the show progresses and changes begin to take place, the performers transform into powerful and passionate characters, according to Morgan.

"I REALIZED WE REALLY NEED TO START PUTTING IN AN EFFORT TO CHANGE BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE."

Almos said that learning and interpreting the performance has intensified her feeling of urgency toward the matter.

"I didn't really know much about the issue before this season," Almos said. "Although now that I know more about climate change, I try my best to make a change and clean up the environment even if it is only a small thing."

Similarly, Morgan's involvement in color guard has provided her with a stark realization about the state of the planet.

"I've been aware of [climate change] for a few years now," Morgan said, "but it wasn't until our fall marching band show that I realized we really need to start putting in an effort to change before it's too late."

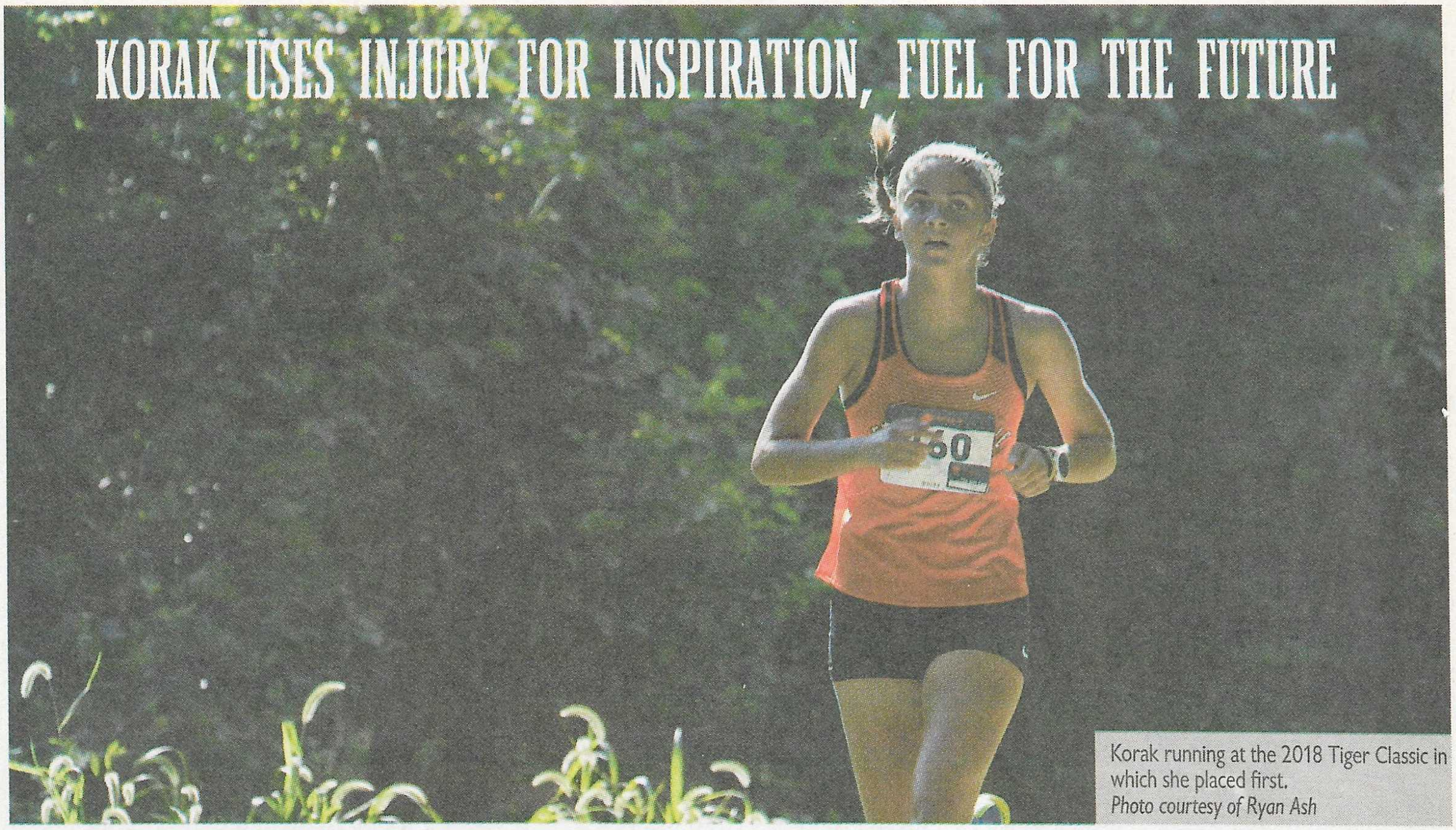
The fall marching band's show was titled "Polluted" and detailed the negative impacts of global warming on the earth. Coach Cummins said the winter show serves as a positive continuation of this idea, focusing on the ways to help the issue instead.

Almos hopes the show encourages other people to take action to make the world a better place.

She said, "...we want everyone to start making a change."

Color guard performers lay on the ground at the beginning of their performance. Their low-spirited movements and emotional expression represent the mistreatment of the earth.
Photo by Mason Kane

KORAK USES INJURY FOR INSPIRATION, FUEL FOR THE FUTURE



Korak running at the 2018 Tiger Classic in which she placed first.
Photo courtesy of Ryan Ash

by Jack Barker, Sports Editor

After three straight years of winning multiple major meets for the EHS cross country team, senior Abby Korak was forced to sit out the entire season.

Korak first beg;a to notice signs of something wrong in August 2019 when she started to experience pain in her thigh. The discomfort she felt would keep her from running on a consistent basis at practice.

After about a month of dealing with these issues, she eventually went to see a doctor, who decided to do an MRI. Following the scan, it was revealed that Korak had a stress reaction in her femur.

This forced her to spend six weeks on crutches and attend physical therapy.

"When I first found out I was injured, I was absolutely devastated," Korak said. "It was also frustrating not knowing what I could have accomplished this season after putting in hundreds of miles over the summer."

But she would turn that frustration into fuel for her teammates.

"I would give them pre-race motivation," Korak said. "I also gave some of them advice when they were struggling with various problems with their running."

This was especially true for freshman runner Riley Knoyle.

"Abby helped welcome me to the team," Knoyle said. "She was always super happy and super supportive."

While Korak was out giving motivation and advice, she was also receiving some from the people around her.

> **"...IT WAS ALSO FRUTSTRATING NOT KNOWING WHAT I COULD HAVE ACCOMPLISHED."**

"My coaches really helped me get through this," Korak said. "They helped me stay positive and optimistic."

Although she missed the entire cross country team, she is not done running for EHS just yet. Korak is looking to the future and is preparing herself for this year's track season.

She has slowly been able to somewhat get back into the normal schedule, running every other day and spending time in the weight room.

During all of this, Korak also had to make a big decision for her future: where to attend college. She decided that Xavier University was the school for her back in October, where she will continue her running career.

"Thankfully all coaches understand that injuries happen, so [the injury] didn't affect anything," Korak said.

Korak has set a few goals for herself going into her final track season. One of them is to run the mile in under five minutes, the other is to maintain her health all season.

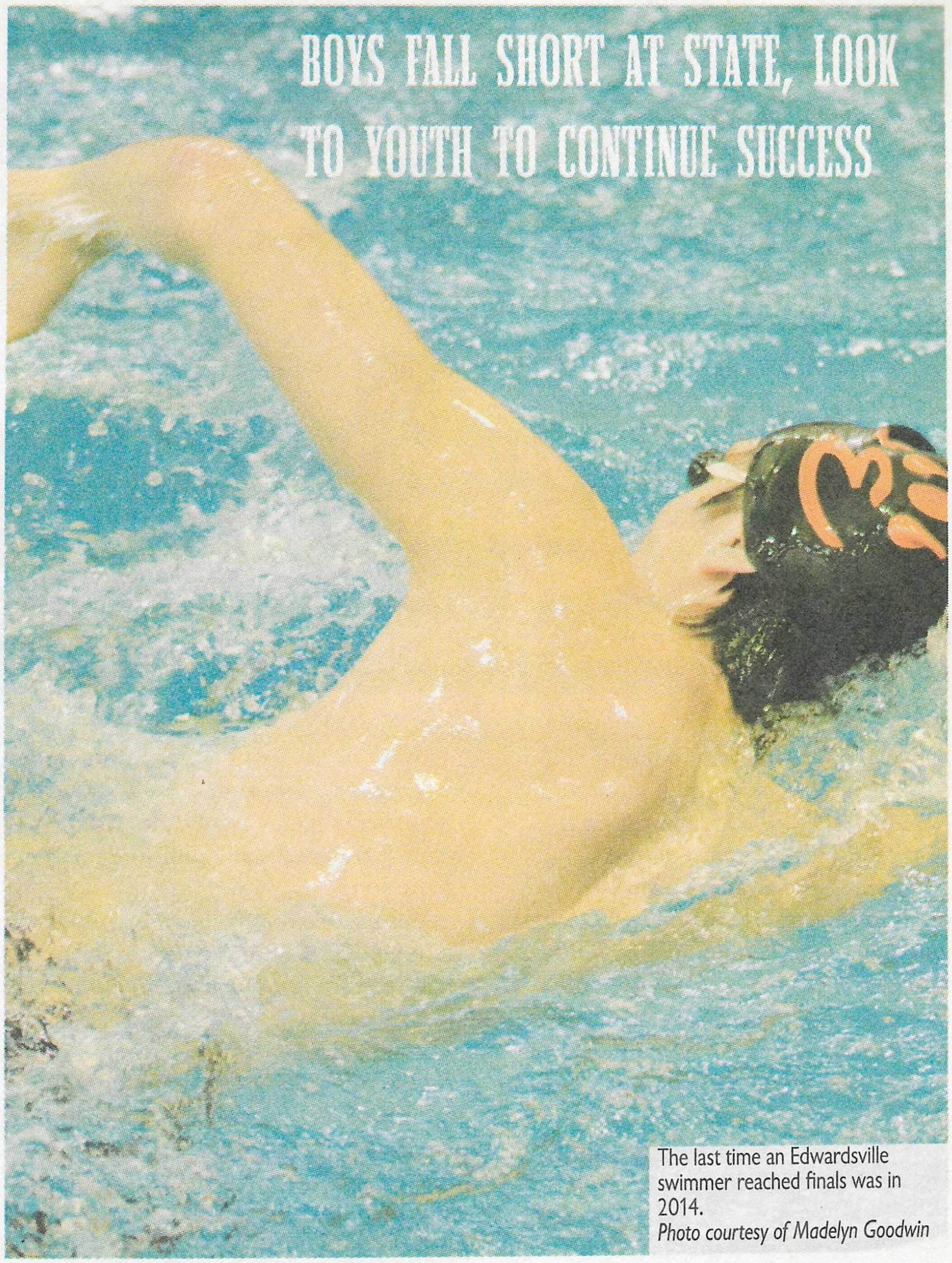
Even though she missed the entire cross country season, Korak felt just as much a part of the team as anyone else.

She continues to look to the future and is excited about this year's track season.

"Being able to run again made me love running even more," Korak said. "After not being able to do something I love for such a long time, it reminded me how much I enjoy running."

BOYS FALL SHORT AT STATE, LOOK TO YOUTH TO CONTINUE SUCCESS

by Jack Pifer, Views Editor



The last time an Edwardsville swimmer reached finals was in 2014.
Photo courtesy of Madelyn Goodwin

A streak of meet wins led the boys swim and dive team into the sectional championships. Going into this first postseason meet, the team had their eyes set on the team title.

In 2019 the boys had four individual state qualifiers and three relay qualifiers but no placers at the state meet. With a few returning members of last year's team, the boys wanted to once again make the journey up to Evanston where the state meet is held.

Chatham Glenwood was the team to beat, according to senior Mathiew Doyle.

"Our expectations are to perform well and hopefully win sectionals," senior Logan Mills said. "I think that we will at least get some relays up to state."

At the sectionals meet, competition was steep with a maximum of two participants in each event besides relays, and many of the boys on the team had high hopes for personal bests in the last few meets.

Mills, who qualified for state last year in the 100 butterfly and both the 200 medley and freestyle relays, wanted to add the 50 freestyle to his list.

"I'm most proud of how hard the team has worked this season and hopefully it pays off and shows at sectionals and state," Mills said.

Senior McLain Oertle, who competed in four events at sectionals, said he could see the team improving, especially the younger guys.

Coming out of sectionals, EHS took home the sought-after team title over Chatham and qualified one individual plus two relays for state.

Mills took a spot in the 100 butterfly while the 200 medley relay consisted of seniors Doyle, Oertle, Mills and sophomore Evan Grinter.

The 200 freestyle relay qualified Mills, Grinter, Oertle and freshman Owen Gruben.

After a week of a bit more tapering and preparation for prelims, the boys had their state sendoff on the morning of Feb. 27.

Before Friday's prelims, tradition prevailed with team ice baths and dinner at The Cheesecake Factory Doyle said.

"Swimming at state is electric," Doyle said. "It never ceases to amaze me how many people they're able to pack into that tiny 6-lane, 3-foot deep pool."

To prepare for state, Mills said his main focus was to train as hard as possible.

"My goal is just to go a best time in the 100 fly, get the best splits in the relays, and also to just have fun at the meet," Mills said.

While no EHS swimmers made it past prelims at state, there will be room for improvement next year when Grinter and Gruben have the chance to return.

As it was Gruben's freshman year, he feels he learned a lot from the experience.

"It was very intimidating to see such fast swimmers…," Gruben said. "I think I just need to stay on top of the ball with training to compete with them."

The road doesn't stop at state, however, as a few of the graduating seniors will be competing in YMCA nationals in early April.

"We actually went back up in yardage after sectionals because we're getting ready for YMCA nationals," Doyle said. "I'm stoked to see what happens there!"

CULTURE

EILISH'S ALBUM ORIGINAL BUT UNIMPRESSIVE

Billie Eilish poses with her five Grammys at the Staples Center. *Photo courtesy of AP Images*

by Hannah Thompson, Staff Writer

Billie Eilish's success has only accelerated since she came into the public eye in 2016 when her song "Ocean Eyes" went viral online.

However, her influence on mainstream music was legitimized this past year after she and her brother Finneas O'Connell won a total of 10 Grammys for their album "When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?"

There are a number of things I can appreciate about the artist herself.

She is refreshingly unapologetic. Her off-the-wall style and emotional vulnerability, especially on topics such as depression, are helping redefine and loosen misogynistic societal expectations of how female pop artists (and all women) are expected to dress and act.

And it is not debatable that her musical content is innovative, especially by pop music standards – where most songs sound similar and hold little meaning. Eilish experiments with mixing sound effects and incorporates satirical aspects that contradict the solemn mood of the album. These additions, however, often go too far and end up crowding the songs.

The track "my strange addiction" incorporates sound clips from an episode of "The Office." While recognizing the lines from the show was exciting for a few moments, it ultimately causes too much complication in the lyrics and emotionally dulls the meaning of the song.

Vulture brilliantly described the song as "a Gen-Z'er's fever dream," as it is intense, a bit nonsensical and riddled with pop culture.

As I first listened to the award-winning album, I tried to understand and respect her disregard for musical conventions. However, as much as I tried, I did not find the chaos compelling.

> **"HOWEVER, AS MUCH AS I TRIED, I DID NOT FIND THE CHAOS COMPELLING."**

Although her style seems to captivate many young listeners today, I find that it sounds more akin to noise than actual music. In this day of computer generated music, it is a rarity that songs on the mainstream charts feature actual musical instruments.

And I can't say I am impressed.

Much of my distaste for the album is connected to my aversion to all electronically manipulated music. I struggle with the extent to which computers and technology have invaded the world of music in both production and consumption. Call me a traditionalist, but I enjoy hearing songs that have real musical instruments in them.

With that said, I could not review the album without mentioning the track "bad guy," which contributed to her five Grammys as Song of the Year. The song explores Eilish's fascination with the unrepentant villainous character. I have to admit that I was impressed by the song's ability to fuse campy lyrics with a self-awareness that makes the song amusing, yet compelling.

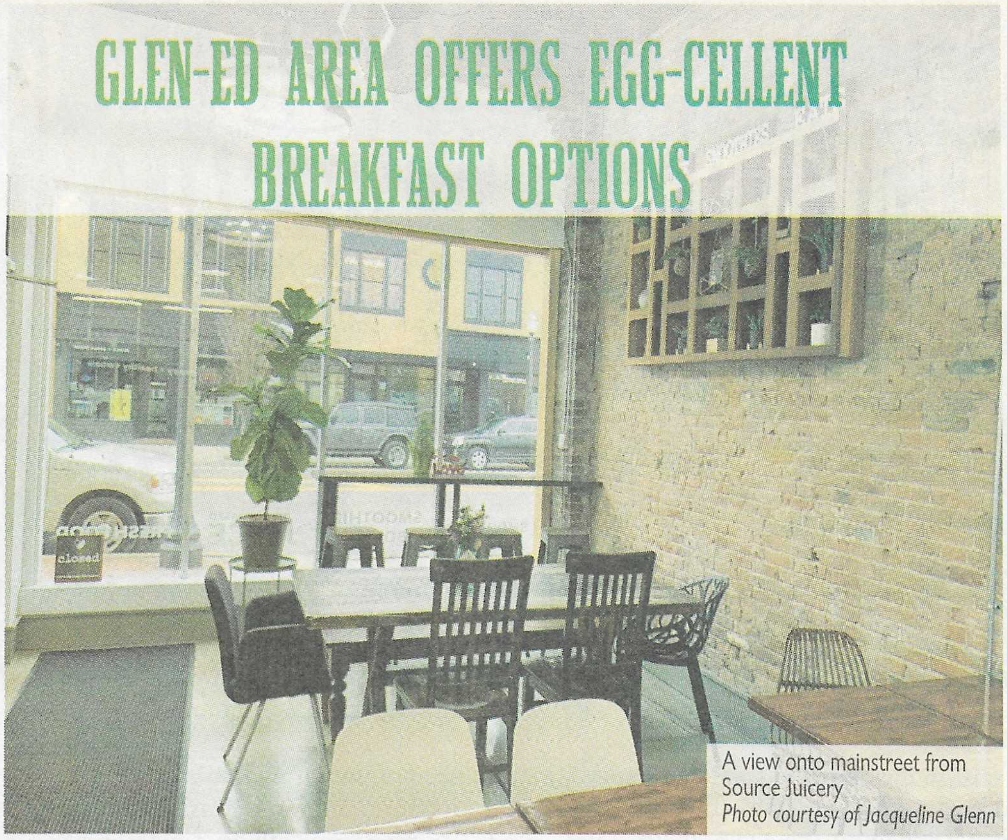
However, as the album goes on, it loses its way. The last two tracks, "I love you'" and "goodbye," drag the album out as they only serve as appendages to what should have been the closing song "listen before you go."

While I was not overly impressed by the album as a whole, it is undoubtedly original and, given the competition it faced at the Grammys, it was just as deserving of the award as any of the other nominees.

GLEN-ED AREA OFFERS EGG-CELLENT BREAKFAST OPTIONS

by Jacqueline Glenn, Co-Editor-In-Chief

Against my better judgment, I usually opt to sleep in and gulp down an ultra-processed protein bar for the most important meal of the day. But when I have more time, these local venues are exemplary options.



A view onto mainstreet from Source Juicery
Photo courtesy of Jacqueline Glenn

Source Juicery

Source's interior decorations and building layout seem almost as if they were designed to improve your mood. An idyllic view of Main Street beckons through its floor-to-ceiling windows. Even the artsy plants scattered around the café appear to be content.

Nothing makes me happier than getting good food fast, and I don't know what kind of wizardry the workers use, but I normally only have to wait about two minutes for the my strawberry chia smoothie, a freshly blended drink.

As with any frozen item, I brace myself for an immediate brain freeze. But this drink's temperature is always perfect: it is the median between ice storm and lukewarm. All restaurants should take such care with their beverages.

The texture and flavor of the smoothie, too, are superb. It is just sweet enough to be satisfying, even though it contains no added sugar. The crunchy chia seeds do not interrupt the evenly blended strawberry and pineapple mixture, and the splashes of lime and coconut water add a tangy blast to the flavor.

The smoothie's $6 price is fair, and along with its taste and temperature, its ability to suffice as its own meal impressed me. If you seek an on-the-go, scrumptious smoothie to start your day, definitely pay Source a visit.

North Main Diner

If smoothies aren't your thing, stroll a few doors down to this cutesy place. I normally waltz in at about 8 a.m., and the servers still welcome me with an enthusiastic "good morning!" It would be easy for them to lament the eye-rubbing time, but they choose to serve with a smile instead.

The diner's food is also exceptional.

I'll come out and say it: I am a picky eater. And I'm especially finicky with my eggs, so I hardly ever order them at restaurants for fear that they won't cook to the texture I prefer—fluffily scrambled with just a hint of toasty. Anything more or less is sacrilege.

North Main Diner gets it right with my veggie omelette.

The egg is evenly dispersed, not too thick or too thin in any place, and this makes it very easy to eat—I don't have to fight it because it doesn't fall apart. And the roasted mushrooms, tomatoes, green peppers and onions stay exactly where they are supposed to, perfectly enveloped in the egg. Each bite is first crunchy, and then fluffy underneath, with a hint of veggie and melted Swiss cheese.

All this, plus sides of hash browns and toast that I always have to save for later, is only $8.74, including an extra 50 cents for the cheese.

That's not too much to ask for excellence.

Teaspoons

Before trying Teaspoons's cheese quiche, I was depriving my tastebuds of something extraordinary.

The dish's appearance surprised me at first when my friendly server handed it to me. It looks like a slice of cheese pie, which is basically what it is.

I gingerly poked it with my fork, predicting that I would dislike it. I was gloriously mistaken.

Intact yet melty sharp cheddar cheese shreds fit effortlessly into the filling's spongy egg base. Each bite also included a refreshing herb garnish that contributed a deliciously savory effect. The quiche's flaky crust melted in my mouth, precisely the way pie crust is supposed to.

That quiche is easily one of my favorite meals that I have ever eaten. Get yourself a piece today for only $6.71–it's worth every penny.

CHAPPED LIPS BEGONE: AN OVERVIEW OF WHAT DIFFERENT LIP BALMS HAVE TO OFFER

Carmex
CLASSIC LIP BALM
Nº 386
MY FAVORITE NIGHT BALM
BIGELOW
Aquaphor
LIP REPAIR
ChapStick

In the world of lip balm there is plenty to choose from. Carmex, C.O. Bigelow and Aquaphor all boast different positives.
Photo by Emily Kloostra

by Cassi Reaka, Staff Writer

With the bitter cold and extreme dryness of Midwest winters comes one inevitable thing: dry, cracked lips. This makes lip balm a necessity for anyone who hopes to avoid the discomfort of parched lips.

The want for luscious lips is not a new sensation. Humans have been trying to soften their lips since the time of Cleopatra when, according to National Post, Egyptians would use beeswax mixed with natural moisturizers such olive oil and animal fats.

It wasn't until the 1880s that pharmacist Dr. Charles Browne Fleet invented the world's first lip balm: a shaped stick wrapped in foil.

Since Fleet's time, the lip balm industry has grown to be worth over $660 million in the U.S. alone, according to Statista.

The addition of sun protection factor (SPF) in a lip balm is essential. Dermatologist Dr. Susan Bard told New York Magazine, "It's crucial to protect your lips from harmful ultraviolet rays just as you do the rest of your skin."

Longest Lasting: ChapStick

ChapStick comes in a variety of scents and flavors, but perhaps the most iconic is the original 8 hour moisture and SPF 15 in its blue packaging.

The balm has a slight vanilla scent and is nearly transparent. It glides on smooth but does not have an immediate soothing quality that one may want if their lips are in need of instant hydration.

Its thick and waxy consistency is ideal for durability and allows it to last on the lips for hours at a time. ChapStick is ideal for preventing chapped lips, but may be inadequate for healing already chapped ones.

Most Moisturizing: Aquaphor

Aquaphor applies like more of a lip gloss than a balm, but immediately begins soaking in and relieving dry lips.

It is unscented and glides on easily, but because of its gloss-like quality, hair can get stuck in it.

> "IT'S CRUCIAL TO PROTECT YOUR LIPS FROM HARMFUL UNTRAVIOLET RAYS JUST AS YOU DO THE REST OF YOUR SKIN"

Aquaphor is useful for soothing dryness and is very comfortable on the lips although it struggles to heal fully chapped lips on its own.

Most Healing: Carmex

Carmex is known for the light tingly sensation that occurs when you put it on your lips, and that no one can seem to get enough of. I enjoy this sensation the first time, but find it becomes uncomfortable if it is put on too often.

It glides on so smooth but does not last long on my lips unless I'm not doing much. There is a very distinct scent that is like a combination of Vaseline and Icy Hot.

Like ChapStick, Carmex has SPF 15, which is a huge plus as it prevents sun damage to the lips while it heals chapped lips. I find Carmex helpful if I have already chapped lips, but borderline irritating if they are not.

Best Overnight: C.O. Bigelow My Favorite Night Balm

I have been using this night balm for at least five years, and it is amazing. Although the formula is a bit goopy, and hair can easily get stuck in it, the balm stays on all night and you can still feel it in the morning.

It is shiny like a lip gloss and has a mild vanilla scent. The extreme thickness is what allows it to soak in so slowly and give such intense hydration.

Before I began using this night balm I would wake up every morning with dry lips, but since using it my lips rarely become dried or cracked.

'BIRDS OF PREY': FLY OR CRASH AND BURN?

by Sydney Hershberger, Staff Writer

After the travesty that was "Suicide Squad", I wasn't exactly hyped for the newest DC movie installation, "Birds of Prey ".

Let's be real: DC doesn't make good movies. DC makes good characters that Warner then takes and says, "Okay now never touch this again."

Marvel has raised the bar simply too high for mediocre DC movies to even begin to compare. So let's just say I sat down at the theater with less than high expectations.

However, Margot Robbie is an actress I have loved for years, from "I, Tanya" to "Zombieland," and I was familiar with the "Birds of Prey" comics. So hope wasn't entirely lost.

The lineup for "Birds of Prey" looked respectable, with older, well known actresses as well as newer, younger actresses.

I also appreciated the diversity that the cast had because in the comics all the women are white.

Overall, from the research I had done before seeing the movie, I was prepared to see a somewhat mediocre superhero movie.

But what I was not prepared for was the overall theme of female empowerment and strength after going through traumatic events as a woman.

Whatever I felt about the message was irrelevant to actual movie quality.

First of all, I could not stand the soundtrack.

Just like the "Suicide Squad" before it, "Birds of Prey" uses a soundtrack made up entirely of pop songs. This is becoming more popular with newer movies, and personally I am not a fan.

I hate to sound old, but the constant use of pop music as a replacement for soundtrack makes me fearful for the future of original movie scoring.

It makes the movie seem cheap and unoriginal. Using loud and distracting pop songs when you could have easily gotten the same message across with an original soundtrack ruined the tone of the movie for me.

Speaking of tone, what was the tone? I definitely couldn't tell. At some parts it seemed like a fun kids movie with all the bright colors and fun jokes, but other times there is on screen sexual assault.

I understood why the movie was rated R, but to be honest, sometimes it felt like DC was doing everything it could to get an R-rating. When you feel like a movie is being just as vulgar as possible just to fulfill a rating, then the movie starts to feel less like an actual adult movie and more like an edgy movie that kids want to sneak into. This movie would have benefited from a PG-13 rating, because that's who I felt like would have enjoyed this movie more, although the content was not appropriate for that demographic.

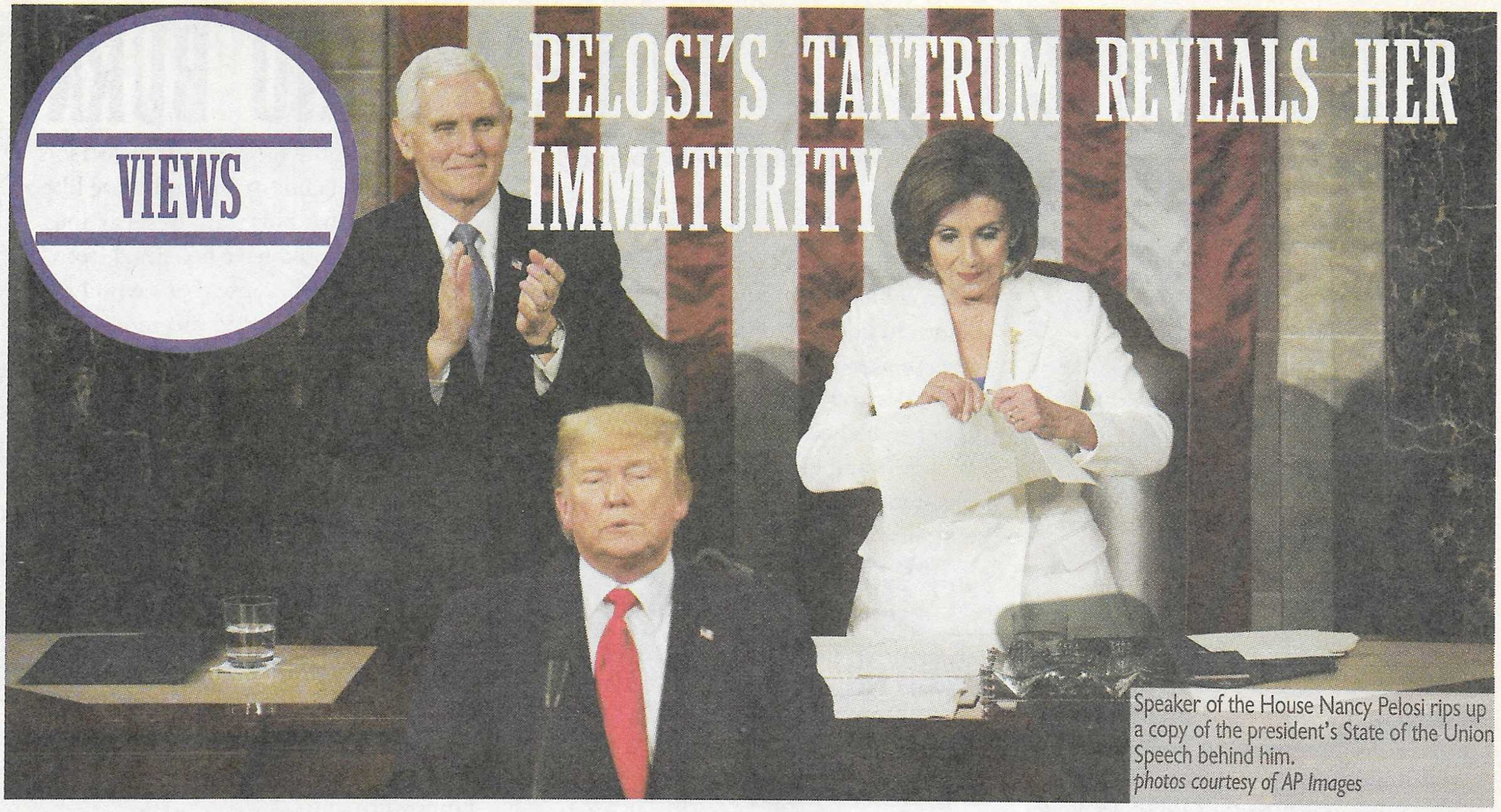
"IT FELT LIKE DC WAS DOING EVERYTHING IT COULD TO GET AN R-RATING."

Overall the movie was just as I expected: okay. The action was okay, the soundtrack was okay, and the acting was, to my dismay, okay. The only thing that stuck out to me was the humor, which I liked. I would like to say that the theme of women empowerment made the movie much better, but this is 2020. Lots of movies are about women empowerment.

But to set yourself apart from the rest, you have to be a good movie about women empowerment.

'Birds of Prey' star Margot Robbie brings a depth to the role of Harley Quinn but that is not enough to make the movie itself great.
Photo Courtesy of AP Images

PELOSI'S TANTRUM REVEALS HER IMMATURITY



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi rips up a copy of the president's State of the Union Speech behind him.
photos courtesy of AP Images

by Katelyn Harris, Staff Writer

She's been speaker of the house twice and has been in Congress for a total of about 32 years according to the Washington Post.

Nancy Pelosi has experienced many things yet there hasn't been a president who has beat Trump in her list of most hated presidents.

While for many reasons it's clear Pelosi doesn't have a liking for Trump, the most evident is her ripping up Trump's State of the Union Address as soon as he finished, and while he was still in the chamber.

Although many will continue to applaud her for this "heroic" act, many will continue to stick by the fact that it was unprofessional and frankly, disgusting.

Like him or not, Trump is the president of the U.S., and you would think that even though the Speaker of the House is a Democrat, she'd still have a little respect for not necessarily Trump or the Republican house members, but for the people Trump mentioned in his speech.

The White House tweeted "Speaker Pelosi just ripped up: One of our last surviving Tuskegee Airmen. The survival of a child born at 21 weeks. The mourning families of Rocky Jones and Kayla Mueller. A service member's reunion with his family. That's her legacy."

The act honestly just made her look stupid. She one, gained nothing for tearing it up, but two, did something completely, must I say it again, unprofessional. It was an embarrassment to herself.

> "ON A NIGHT LIKE THAT, SHE SHOULD'VE BEEN BIPARTISAN OR AT LEAST PRETENED TO BE."

It's arguable that she did this because of Trump dodging her handshake, yet would you shake the hand of someone trying to remove you from office?

This wasn't the only thing she did the night of the State of the Union, however. She also kept shaking her head and making faces when Trump said something she didn't agree with or think to be true.

On a night like that, she should've been bipartisan or at least pretended to be. As Speaker of the House she should be trying to keep our country together, not try to further divide it.

Pelosi has defended her decision to rip up the speech in several ways, but I think my favorite is when she said she doesn't "need any lessons from anybody, especially the president of the United States, about dignity," according to The Washington Post.

Throughout the speech, Trump mentioned many things that he's done for the country, but I didn't get the vibe that he was trying to teach a lesson about dignity.

"It's appalling the things that he says. And then you say to me: 'Tearing up his falsehoods, isn't that the wrong message?' No, it isn't. I feel very liberated. I feel that I've extended every possible courtesy. I've shown every level of respect," Pelosi said according to The Washington Post.

Okay Nancy, if you felt so "liberated," imagine how the families mentioned in the speech felt when you ripped it up. Next time, I'd just be quiet.

RE-EVALUATING THE SHOCKINGLY PROFITABLE NONPROFIT

by Jacqueline Glenn, Co-Editor-in-Chief

What do you call an organization that pulls in a hefty profit and disregards the best interests of the people whom it supposedly serves? A nonprofit.

That's right. College Board, the company to which you write your $94 checks for each AP test you take and $49.50 for each SAT, gets to define itself as a nonprofit.

Cornell Law School defines that term as a "group organized for purposes other than generating profit and in which no part of the organization's income is distributed to its members, directors, or officers." Nonprofits also enjoy tax exemption in exchange for their public benevolence.

The obvious problem with the fact that College Board is permitted to define itself in such a positive manner is that deviates entirely from the definition of a nonprofit organization.

"The College Board is a mission-driven not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunity," its website states.

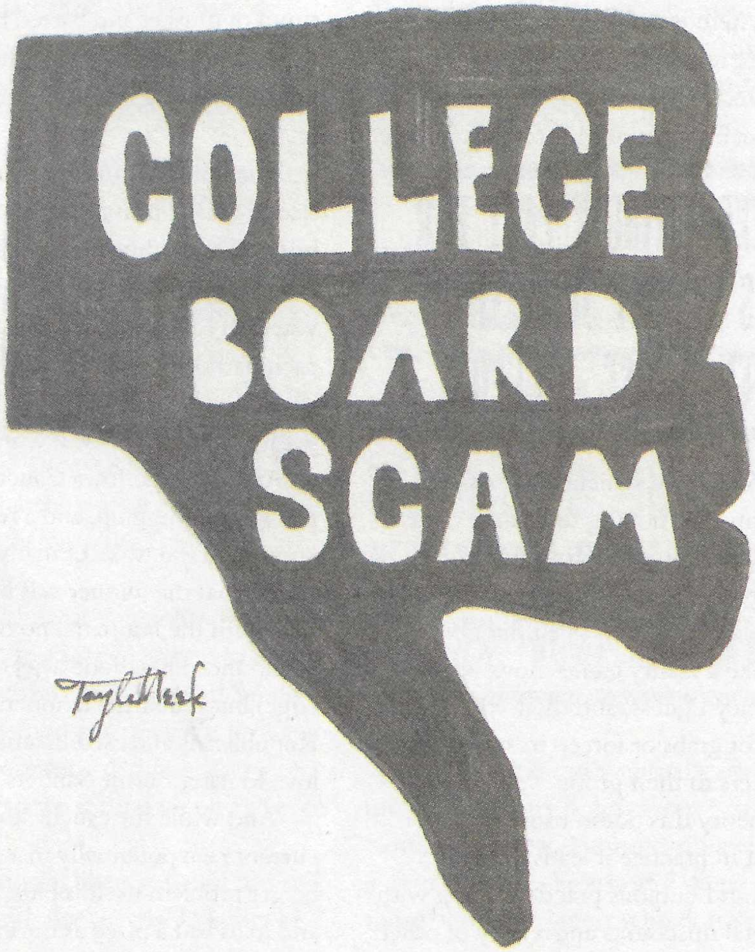
Something makes me doubt that. Perhaps it's all the cash the organization pockets.

"The College Board's profits for 2009, the most recent year for which records were available, were 8.6 percent of revenue," the Atlantic reported, "which would be respectable even for a for-profit corporation."

And its employees aren't paid too shabbily, either.

David Coleman, the president and chief executive officer of College Board, earned $690,854 in 2013, according to the Washington Post.

Who's paying for that six-figure salary? Millions of American students and their parents, who depend on College Board for its services.



Aside from gaining exorbitant profits, College Board also strays from the definition of a nonprofit in that it does not aim entirely to help people. In fact, it does quite the opposite.

The "nonprofit" sells the SAT-takers' names and other personal information to universities, which enables schools expand their applicant pools by recruiting people who have little chance of getting accepted.

"Those rejection rates have amplified the perception of exclusivity that colleges are eager to reinforce, pushing students to invest more time and money in preparing for and retaking exams College Board sells," the Wall Street Journal reported.

This intermarriage of and American universities excludes students entirely. They are left with colossal bills from tests they retook under the false pretense that they might be accepted to their dream school, and with dashed hopes for their future.

College Board still insists that it is an honorable organization.

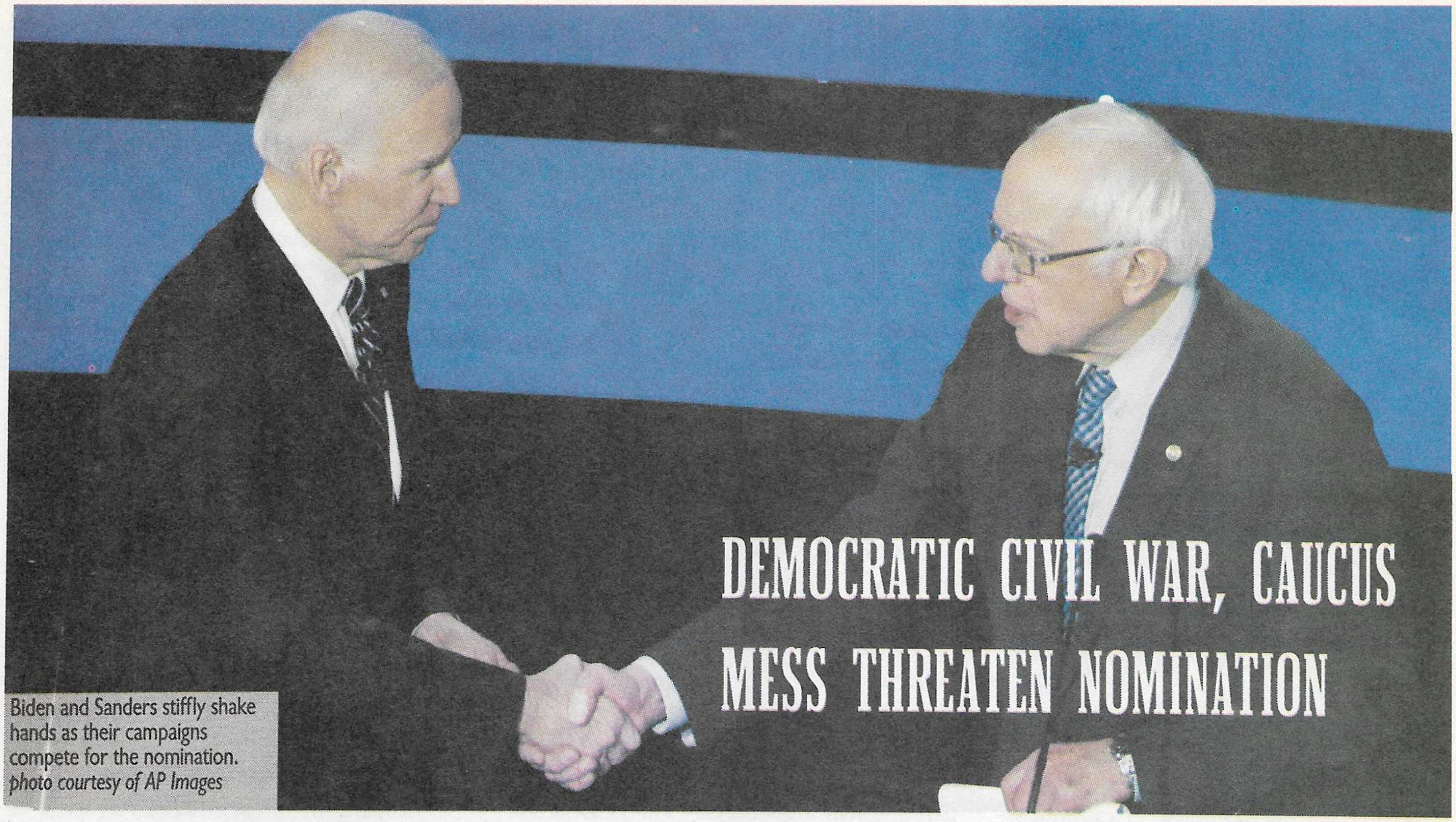
"All revenue is reinvested into programs aimed at expanding educational opportunity for all students, including fee reductions for low-income students," College Board's director of media relations, Zach Goldberg, wrote in an email to the Washington Post.

But that fails to rectify its utter betrayal of it students.

If College Board truly adhered to its mission statement—to "connect students to college success and opportunity"—it would not sell students' personal information for its own financial gain. It would not lead them to believe the impossible about their future. It would charge no one an exorbitant rate for a test mandatory for college acceptance while stuffing the pockets of its leaders.

It's time to revoke College Board's nonprofit status. It's time to stop pretending that it operates for any purpose other than stealing both money and dreams from students.

DEMOCRATIC CIVIL WAR, CAUCUS MESS THREATEN NOMINATION



Biden and Sanders stiffly shake hands as their campaigns compete for the nomination. *photo courtesy of AP Images*

by Ryan Stewart, Co-Editor-in-Chief

The 2020 presidential campaign will be the most important race in the near, and most likely, far future. The danger of a second Trump term is simply too great to ignore, and it is imperative that the Democrats put forth their strongest candidate this time around.

The lead-up to the next election is a time of great stress, watching the caucuses and primaries, hoping your candidate will make it through on top. But the very first state to vote, Iowa, was just about the biggest mess, disaster, catastrophe that could have happened.

And it raises two titanic issues and countless questions as to how to solve them.

The system of caucusing for a candidate is outdated, backward and quite frankly is not representative of what a true democracy should be. "But, why is the caucus such a problem?" Well, thank you, omniscient narrative device, I'm glad you asked.

First of all, a caucus is run by the party, while a primary is run by a state government. In some caucuses a secret ballot system is used, while in others the voters are forced to publicly support a candidate.

A caucus functions more like a public debate forum, in which voters assemble and campaign, hoping to change their peers' minds. In every round of voting in this system, a candidate with less than 15 percent of the vote is eliminated, much like a reality game show, because democracy I guess, and their voters are left up for grabs or forced to sway other supporters to their group.

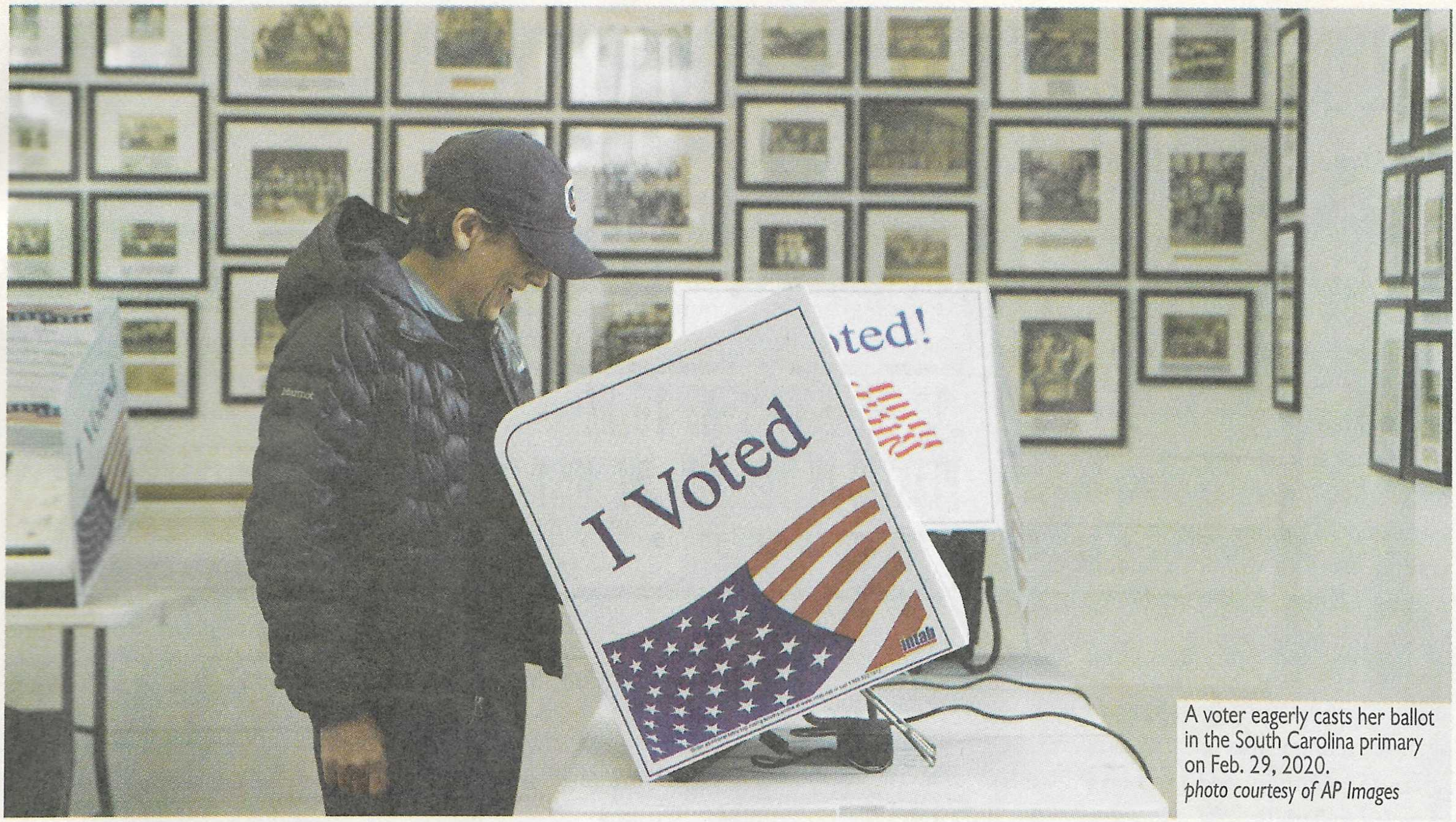
IT'S TERRIFYINGLY EASY FOR THINGS TO GET JUMBLED UP, OR EVEN WORSE, RIGGED.

In theory this doesn't sound too bad, but in practice it leads to many twisted and dubious practices along with accidental miscounts and a bevy of other logistical nightmares. Back in ye olden times of musket and barrel, this system worked just fine. But as is the problem with expanding nations, scaling skunked us.

The human mind is hardwired to have a solid grasp on small divisions of things, but when the thing in question is an election spanning well over 300 million voters in each little segmented voter area, each harboring its own slightly unique system, it's terrifyingly easy for things to get jumbled up or, even worse, rigged.

And with the Iowa Caucus map math not quite adding up, and a re-canvas coming in the wake of many reports saying that the winner was in fact, not Pete with the last name no one can say (its pronounced like boot-a-jej or boot-edge-edge) but rather the democratic socialist Republicans and establishment Democrats love to hate, Bernie Sanders.

And while the caucus itself has left the current race potentially inaccurate, the bigger problem itself is blue, traditional and in as bad a place as the entrenched



A voter eagerly casts her ballot in the South Carolina primary on Feb. 29, 2020.
photo courtesy of AP Images

sector of Republicans who rig their party. It is in fact their counterpart: the aforementioned establishment Democrats.

Formulate an image of the pessimist's view of a politician. They lie, they cheat, they say and do whatever they can to get power and money. You may have imagined a Republican or a Democrat, because there are certainly ample examples on both sides, but that's not the point.

The corrupt, middle-of-the-road, conservative Democrats are the problem, an anchor dragging the party down into murky depths. They are the biggest roadblock to having a great president in office in 2020 because the Democrats are the last chance.

The establishment Republicans back Trump, so we're already halfway to having zero viable options. As Biden and Sanders are the two Democratic offerings for voters in 2020, we're getting dangerously closer to the same trap we sprung on ourselves in 2016 .

Every election is like a game of tug-of-war. One round, the centrist Democrats pull us toward Obama, and everything turns out well. The next go-around they back him again, and everything's kumbaya. So they try to pull harder, but in that moment when they reach for Hillary, the republicans rally in that second and we get pulled into a Trumpian pile of mud.

This time around, the leftists have entrenched beyond the puddle, and we can only hope they have the stamina to wrench us back and eventually even us out. Reactionary politics aren't anywhere close to the ideal, but unfortunately, with a Trump White House and threat of four more years, the voters who don't want to go all the way will have to.

...USING THE SAME STRATEGY THAT FAILED IN 2016 IS DESTINED TO DOOM US TO ANOTHER TRUMP NIGHTMARE.

Being forced to the extreme isn't something most voters like the idea of, but using the same strategy that failed in 2016 is destined to doom us to another Trump nightmare.

And after Super Tuesday, the future looks bleaker with Biden holding the stronger position. This race now looks a lot like it did in 2016.

A longtime establishment Democrat with a staggering history of gaffes, errors and scandal after scandal is holding the centrist vote and is ahead of Bernie Sanders. Biden could very well win at this pace.

He has name recognition and ties to Obama that are inevitably going to endear him to many voters, especially those who don't follow the latest news updates as closely as possible.

And those ties will position him in the same posture that Clinton was in in 2016, of being a long-time target of the GOP and its voter base.

REDUCING, REUSING, BUT NOT RECYCLING?

by Lauren Johnson, Staff Writer

Hamel is a small town. Residents collect all their mail from P.O. boxes at the local post office. Nobody cares if a neighbor decides to burn leaves in their backyard. In fact, Hamel is such a small town that residents don't have easy access to recycling.

Hamel, in respect to recycling, is not a novelty. According to the EPA, an estimated 34 million households in rural communities in America do not have their recycling collected. But why so many?

For decades, China processed the discarded plastic of over half the world--including America. China closed many of their recycling plants in 2018, however, after the country placed a ban on imported recycled materials.

Recycling was becoming too costly. Many of the materials that poured into China were deemed "contaminated." No, not by hazardous waste, disease or coronavirus—by food.

When a recycled container is used for food and not adequately washed by the consumer, the process of cleaning it in a facility is too demanding of time and money, explained environmental scientist and professor at UC Berkeley Kate O'Neill in an NPR podcast.

This is why most of the recycling that one puts into the bin isn't actually recycled. For all we know, that piece of plastic with the "Please Recycle" label on it could be making its way to the dump, where it will sit for the next millennium alongside the eternal flame fed by a never-ending stream of methane gas. Better yet, it could join the estimated 4 billion tons of waste that make their way into our rivers and oceans.

Following China's ban, cities all over the country raced to find a new market for their recycling, but to no avail. According to a statistic from Waste Dive, many recycling programs in Arizona, Virginia and Missouri have been cut. In Maine, nine of its 16 counties have halted collection.

"IF THERE HAPPENS TO BE PLASTIC IN THE BIN, WE JUST LEAVE IT IN THERE..."

EHS, too, was directly affected; the high school environmental club discontinued their collection of non-paper materials at the beginning of the 2019 school year.

Senior Nura Freese, former president of the EHS Environmental Club, said she feels that EHS is no longer putting enough resources into its recycling collection.

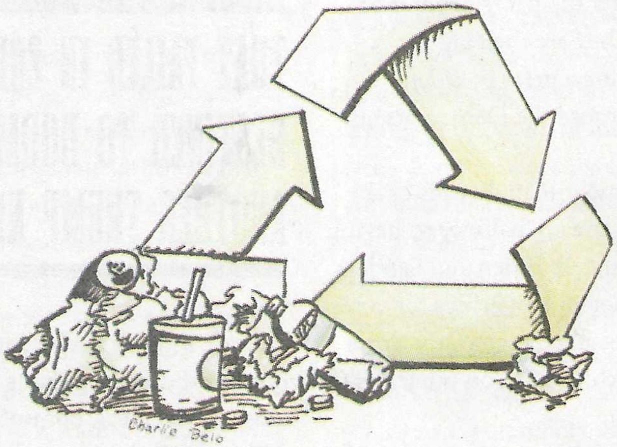
"Usually when we go to recycle, we go door-to-door collecting only the paper. And if there happens to be plastic in the bin, we just leave it in there...Teachers are told to monitor what ends up in the bin," Freese said.

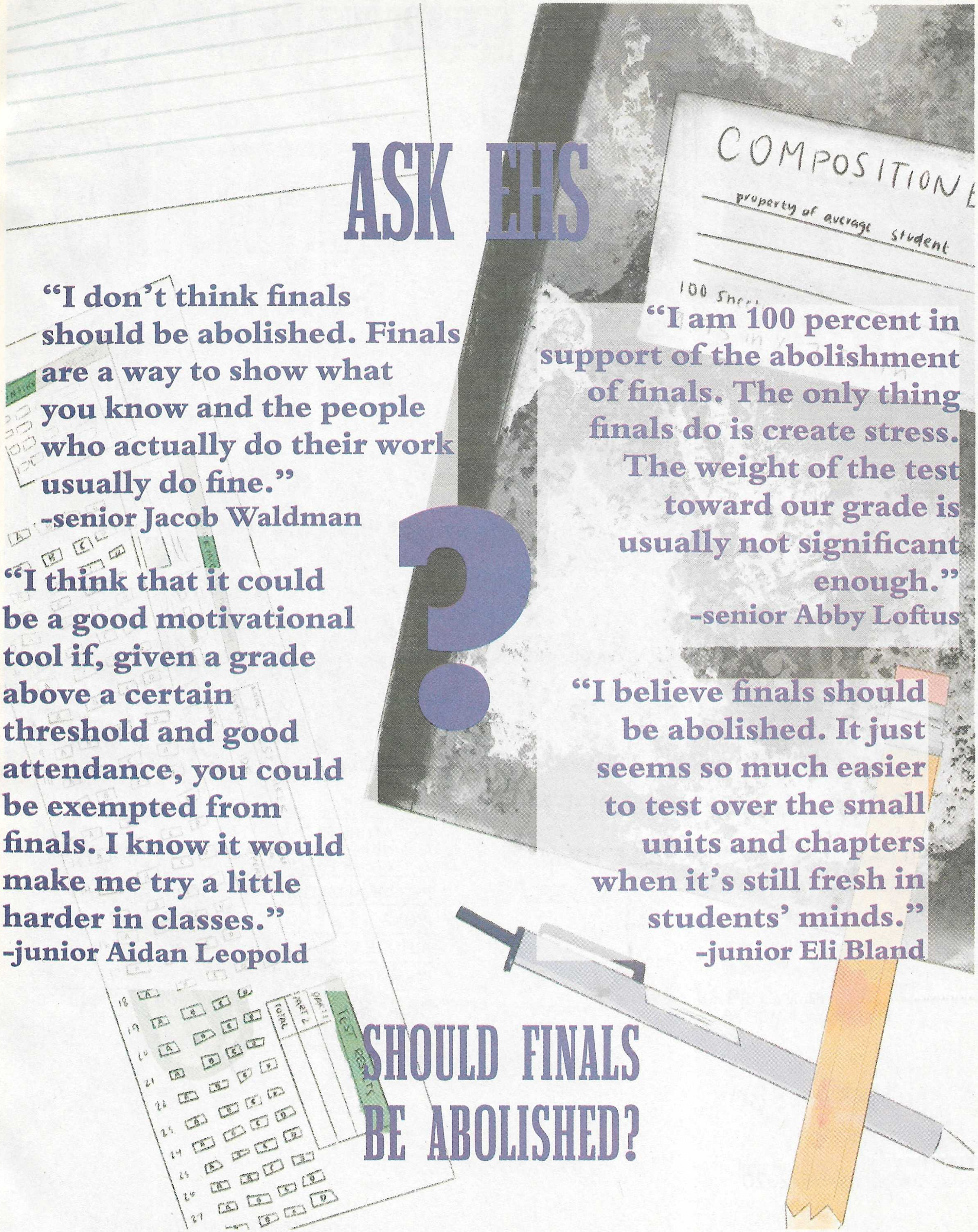
EHS students and staff aren't necessarily to blame for the confusion revolving around what is and isn't recyclable; it's pretty ambiguous. This leads me to believe that the best thing one can do is rinse and recycle non-paper items at home.

On both a local and national basis, we, as environmentally-conscious consumers, can work to incentivize companies to develop recycled products by actually buying the products in stores.

Dr. Amy Brooks of the University of Georgia reminds us of the immediacy of the issue in her abstract regarding the impact of the Chinese recycling import ban.

"Bold global ideas and actions for reducing quantities of non-recyclable materials, redesigning products, and funding domestic plastic waste management are needed."





ASK EHS

"I don't think finals should be abolished. Finals are a way to show what you know and the people who actually do their work usually do fine."
-senior Jacob Waldman

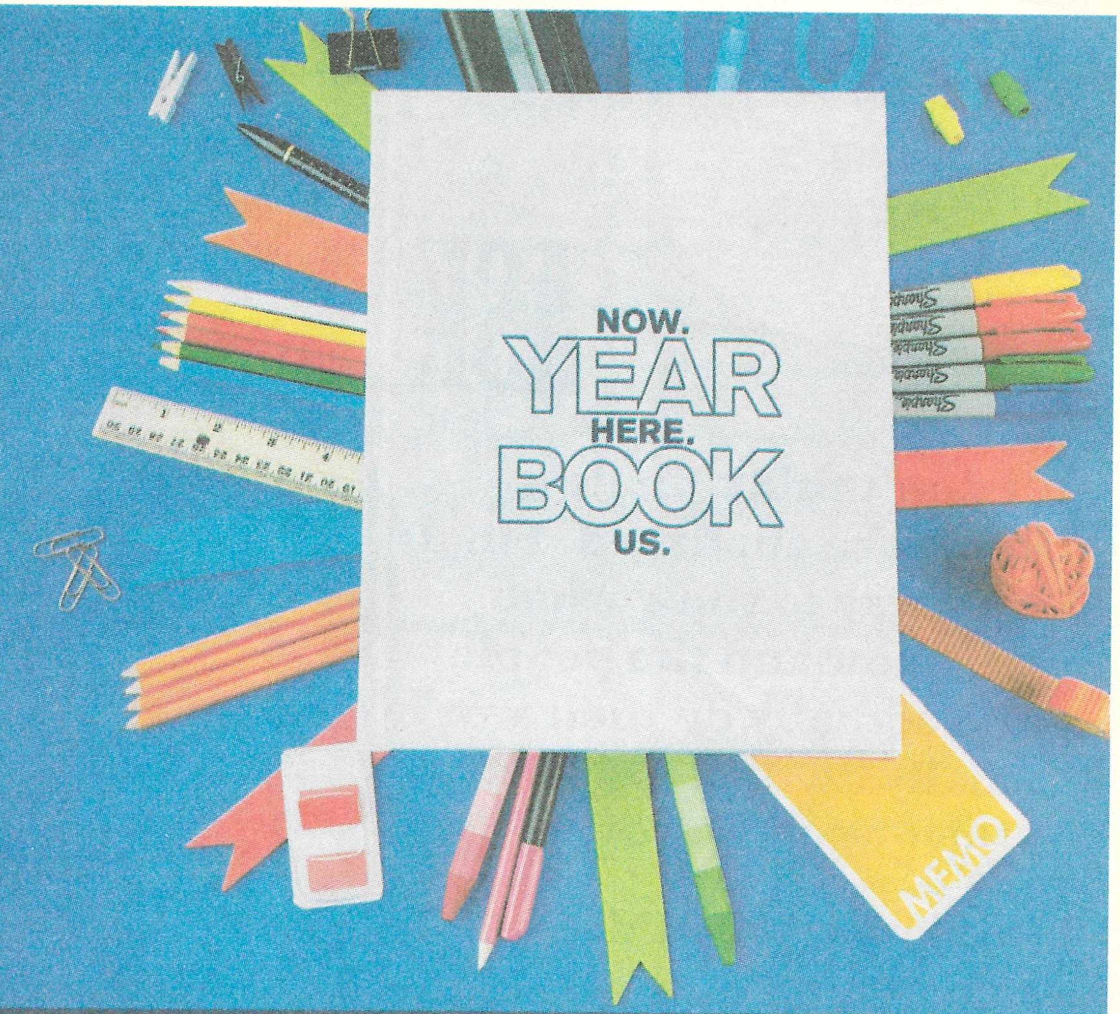
"I think that it could be a good motivational tool if, given a grade above a certain threshold and good attendance, you could be exempted from finals. I know it would make me try a little harder in classes."
-junior Aidan Leopold

"I am 100 percent in support of the abolishment of finals. The only thing finals do is create stress. The weight of the test toward our grade is usually not significant enough."
-senior Abby Loftus

"I believe finals should be abolished. It just seems so much easier to test over the small units and chapters when it's still fresh in students' minds."
-junior Eli Bland

SHOULD FINALS BE ABOLISHED?

The best school supply of all.



ORDER YOURS TODAY

jostensyearbooks.com | 1-877-767-5217

Jostens

TOP REASONS TO ORDER

2019-2020 EDWARDSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOK!

- ☑ Printed pics of all the things.
- ☑ Your future self will thank you.
- ☑ Pay in 3 easy payments.*
- ☑ Signing day is the best day.
- ☑ SO. MANY. MEMORIES.

NOW $80

Order by 4/3/2020

YEARBOOK	$80.00
SIGNATURE PACKAGE *Includes: Yearbook, Personalization, Autograph Pens, Autograph Secti*[illegible]	[illegible]00
PERSONALIZATION	[illegible]6.00
ICONS	FREE!
AUTOGRAPH SE[illegible]	$2.75
PHOTO PO[illegible]	$3.00
DO[illegible]OK	$80.00
[illegible]ECTIVE COVER	$3.00

PERSONALIZATION IS NO LONGER AVAILABLE

Tax and handling will be added if applicable.

***Credit card installment plan available for orders of $30 or more.**